

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 were previously cancelled. Claim 3 is in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

4-5. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,505,506 to Kleefeldt in view of European Publication 940,241 to Schneegans. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner contends that Kleefeldt discloses a method for fabricating a supporting assembly including “placing the first metal plate (14) into a mold die (col. 2, lines 58-64; col. 3, lines 14-20), inserting the actuating pin (12) into the mold die which is separate and spaced from the first metal plate (fig. 1; col. 3, lines 14-20), and molding the shell to the first metal plate in the mold die and around the actuating pin to englobe the actuating pin in the shell (col. 2, lines 61-63).”

Kleefeldt discloses a steel plate (2) including a pivot (12) that is formed by a tab (12') that is punched out of and bent up from the steel plate (2). A housing (5) having a floor (6) is injected molded around the steel plate (2). The tab (12') is surrounded by an integral collar (12'') of synthetic-resin material unitary with the floor (6). A cover (8) is injected molded around another steel plate (14). A rectangular-section outer end of the tab (12') fits through a complementary rectangular slot or formation in the steel plate (14) imbedded in the cover (8) and is headed over like a rivet to secure it permanently therein.

Kleefeldt does not disclose a method including the steps of inserting an actuating pin into a mold die separate and spaced from a first metal plate and molding a shell to the first metal plate in the mold die and around the actuating pin to englobe the actuating pin in the shell, as specifically required by claim 3. The Examiner contends that the steel plate (14) in Kleefeldt is equivalent to the first metal plate 8 in the present application. The Examiner also contends that the pivot (12) in Kleefeldt is equivalent to the actuating pin 51 in the present invention. As the

Examiner points out, the pivot (12) is separate and spaced apart from the steel plate (14). However, the cover (8) that is molded around the steel plate (14) is not molded around the pivot (12) to englobe the pivot (12) in the cover (8). Rather, a rectangular-section outer end of the pivot (12) fits through a complementary rectangular slot or formation in the steel plate (14) imbedded in the cover (8) and is headed over like a rivet to secure it permanently therein. Thus, Kleefeldt does not disclose these steps.

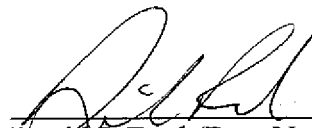
Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and, as such, is construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Claim 3 is allowable for the reasons set forth above. Thus, claim 4 is also allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleefeldt in view of Schneegans be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Ford (Reg. No. 62,462)
Clark Hill PLC
500 Woodward Avenue, Suite 3500
Detroit, MI 48226-3435
(313) 965-8575

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